THE PLEASANT CONCEITS OF OLDHOBSON THE MERRY LONDONER.

ll of Humorous diſcourſes, and witty meriments whereat the quickeſt wits may laugh, and the wiſer ſort take pleaſure.

AT LONDON
inted for Iohn Wright, and are to be ſould at his ſhop at Chriſt-Church gate.
1610.

5.

To the Right worſhipfull, *Sir* William STONE Knight, Mercer to the Queenes moſt excellent Maieſty,

YOur Friendly diſpoſition (Right worſhipfull) giuing grace to the well meaning mindes, hath impoldened me amoungſt others, to teſtifie that good will in outward ſhew, which my heart of long time hath ſecretly bore to your

your worſhippe, and now taking oportunity I preſent to your fauorable cenſure, this ſmall booke, containing many quick flaſhes of the witty ieſts of old *Hobſon* the merry Londoner, lately a cittizen of good eſtimation, and I thinke not altogether forgotten of your worſhip: Receiue this little treatiſe (I beſeeche you) with fauour aunſwearable to my good will, and as your leaſure ſhall ſerue, beſtow now and then a litle reading thereof, which if it pleaſe you to doe, I doubt not but you will like well of the labour, and beſides the honeſt recreation which it afforderh, apply what your worſhip maketh choyce of, vnto your priuate pleaſure, and

and thus wiſhing your proſperity, acceptance to this my guift, and opinion of the giuer conclude, hoping that my honeſt wiſh ſhall not be voyde of a happy ſucceſſe.

Your Worſhip moſt humble to command

RICHARD IOHNSON.

The pleasant life of old Hobson the merry Londoner, full of humorous discourses, and witty meriments whereat the quickest wits may laugh, and the wiser sort take pleasure

Of Maister Hobsons discription.

IN the begining of Quéene Elizabeaths most happy raigne, our late deceased soueraigne, vnder whose peaceful gouernment, long florished this our Countrey of England, there liued in the Citty of London a merry Cittizen named

named old Hobson, a Haberdasher of small wares, dwelling at the lower end of Cheapside in the Poultry, as well knowne through this part of England, as a Sargiant knowes the Counter gate, he was a homely plaine man, most commonly wearing a buttond cap close to his eares, short gowne girt hard about his middle, and a paire of slippers vpon his feet of an ancient fashion, as for his wealth it was answerable to the better sort of our Citizens, but of so merry a disposition that his equall therein is hardly to be found: hereat let the pleasant disposed people laugh, and the more grauer in carriage take no exeptions, for heere are merriments without hurt, and humorous iestes sauoring vpon wisdome: read willingly, but scoffe not spitefully, for old Hobson spent his dayes merrily.

2 Of Maiſter Hobſons Prouerbs.

NOt many yeares ſince: there was Sir Iohn Baynes, (by the common voice of the Citty) choſen Sherife of London, which man in former times had bin M. Hobſons Prentice, and riding along the ſtreets with other Aldermen about the Citty buſineſſe, was ſaluted by Maiſter Hobſon in this maner, Bones a God man, what a cock-horſe knaue, and thy Maiſter a fote, heeres the world turnde vpſide downe: Sir Iohn Baynes hearing this his Maiſters merry ſalutation, paſſed alonge with a pleaſant ſmile, making no anſweare at all vppon ſlight regard, Ma. Hobſon toke occa-

on to ſay as followeth: heres pride rides on horſe-backe whilſt humility goes afoot: in ſpeaking theſe words came foure other Aldermen riding after Maiſter Shreife, whoſe names were theſe: Alderman Ramſey, Alderman Bond, Alderman Beecher, and Allderman Cooper, at whoſe paſſage by, hee made this pleaſant rime.

1 Ramſey the rich,
2 Bond the ſtout:
3 Beecher the Gentle-man,
4 and Cooper the loute.

This pleaſant rime ſo ſodainly ſpoken by Maiſter *Hobſon*, is to this day accounted for his Prouerbe in London.

3 Of Maiſter *Hobſon* and Iohn Tawnycote.

MAiſter Hobſon being a haberdaſher of ſmall wares (as I ſayd before) & his ſhoppe on a time full of cuſtomers, his negligent Prentiſes, carelesly credited a Kentiſh Pedler with ten pounds of commodities, neither knowing his name nor his dwelling place, which ouer ſight, when Maiſter Hobſon vnderſtood, and noting the ſimpliſity of his ſeruants, and their forgetfullneſſe, demanded what apparrel the Pedler had on? marry Sir (quoth one of the prentiſes) hee had a Tawny cote, then (quoth maiſter Hobſon) put down

Iohn

Iohn Tawny-cote, and so was the Pedler by the name of Iohn Tawnycote, entred to the booke, about a month after the same Pedler came againe to London to buy ware, and comming to Maister Hobson in a russet coate willed him to turne ouer his booke for ten pounds that one Iohn Rowlandes owed him, Ten pounds (quoth Maister Hobson) that Iohn Rowlands oweth me, I remember no such man, bones of God knaue, then owest me none, but I doe saith the peddler: Whereupon the booke was searched, but no Iohn Rowlands was to be found, I thinke thou art madde (quoth Hobson, for thou owest me nothing, but I doquoth the peddler and will pay it. Beeing in this strife a long time one of his seruantes said, that hee had found in the booke such a debt by one Iohn Tawny cote, that is my selfe, replyed the peddler, I was then Iohn Tawny cote, though I am now

now Iohn Russet cote, so paid hee the ten pounds by the same name to Maister Hobson and receaued twenty more vpon his owne word and name of Iohn Rowland, the which twenty pound hee shortly after paid for suertishyp, and so by this his ouer-kind heart, paiing other mens debts, hee grew so poore, and into such necessity, that hee was forced to maintaine his liuing by hedging and ditching and other such like countrey laboures. within a while after this, Maister Hobson comming into Kent to séeke vppe some desperate debts, he came to Dartford, where finding this poore man ditchinge for a groat a day, in pitty of him said, how now Iohn Tawny cote, bones a God man thou canst neuer pay me with this poore labour, come home knaue, come home, I will trust thée with twenty pound more, follow thy old trade of pedling againe and one day thou mayest pay me all.

Thus

Thus the peddler had a new credit of Maister Hobson, by which good meanes he grew rich, that in time hee bought his freedome of London, and therein grew so wealthy a Citizen, that hee became one of the Maisters of the Hospitall and when hee dyed hee proued a good benefactor to the same house.

4 How Maiſter Hobſon called the Lord Maior of London knaue by craft.

Aiſter Hobſon in his youthfull time, hauing nothing to dinner on a day but bread and cheeſe good beere and a red herring, and beeing merrily diſpoſed to ieſt, came vnto his doore to ſit, where he ſaid to a Sargiant of London, I haue dinde this day (quoth hee) as well as my Lord maior: The Sargiant hearing this, and being a pick-thanke companion, went and certified his Lordship thereof, who immediatly ſent for maiſter Hobſon, beeing

then a man but of a meane estate, who no soner being come into his presence, but his Lordship would needes know the cause of his comparisons, clapping twenty knaues on poore Hobsons shoulders, I meane not Sergiants, but knaues of my Lords Maiors owne making. I will teach thee Knaue (quoth his Lordship) how to vse my name in thy comparisons, and not in thy beggerlye dinners, and drunken banquets to compare with mee, and whilest thou liuest to except mee in any thing: and there-vpon sent Maister Hobson to the Counter, where hee laye some two or three dayes with-out baile: but at last beeing set at liberty, hee met with the same Sergiant againe: whome hee saluted in this manner. Well mette Sergiant (quoth hee) by thy meanes I am commanded to except my Lord Mayor in all things, and so I will, for I thinke in my conscience, thou art the veryest Knaue in all London except

except my Lord Mayor. Thus Maiſter Hobſon moſt cunningly called my Lord Mayor and the officer both knaues.

5. How Maiſter Hobſon made a light banquet for his company.

VPon a time Maiſter Hobſon inuited very ſolemnly the whole liuery of his company to a light banquet, for the ſame prouided the greateſt Tauerne in all London in a readineſſe: the appointed houre being come, the Cittizens repaired thether richly attired, the better to grace Maiſter Hobſons banquet: but expecting great chéere, and good intertainment, they were all vtterly diſappointed: for what found they there thinke you?

Nothing on my word, but each one a cup of wine and a manchet of bread on his trencher: and ſome fiue hundred Candels lighted about the roome, which in my minde was a very light banquet both for the belly, and for the eye, by this merry Ieſt, hee gaind ſuch loue of his company, that hee borrowed gratis out of the hall a hundred and fiftie pound for two yeares.

6 How Maiſter *Hobſon* choakt his prentiſes the way to the Church.

Euermore when Maiſter Hobſon had any buſineſſe abroad, his Prentiſes would either bee at the Tauerne filling their heads with wine, or at the Dagger in Cheape

Cheape-ſide, cramming their bellyes with minſt pyes: but aboue all other times, it was their common cuſtome (as London Prentiſes vſe) to follow their Maiſters vpon Sundayes to the Church doze and then to leaue them and hye vnto the Tauerne, which Maiſter Hobſon on a time, perceiuing one of his men ſo to doe, demanded at his comming home, what the Preachers Text was. Sir (quoth the fellow) I was not at the beginning, what was in the middle (quoth Maiſter Hobſon) Sir (quoth the fellow) then was I a ſleepe: ſayd maiſter Hobſon againe, what was then the concluſion? then replyed his ſeruant, I was come ſir away before the end: by which meanes hée knew well hée was not there, but rather in ſome tipling houſe, offending Gods maieſtie, and the lawes of the land. Therefore the next ſunday morning after, maiſter Hobſon called all his ſeruants together

and in the sight of many of his neighbours and their prentises, toke a pece of chawke and chawked them all the way along to the Church directly, which prooued a great shame to his owne seruants, but a good example to all others of like condition: after this was there neuer the like misdemeanure vsed amongst them.

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7. How Maister *Hobson* hung out a Lanthorne and a Candle-light.

IN the beginning of Quéene Elizabeths raigne, when the order of hanging out Lanthorne and candle-light was first brought vp: the Beadle of the warde where maister Hobson dwelt, in a darke euening, went crying vp and downe, Hang out

your Lanthornes, hang out your Lanthornes: vſing no other words. Whereupon maiſter Hobſon tooke an empty Lanthorne, & according to the Beadles call, hung it out, this flout by the Lord Mayor was taken in ill part, and for the ſame offence was ſent to the Counter, but being releaſed, the next night following, the Beadle thinking to amend his call: cryed with a lowd voice: Hang out your Lanthorne & candle, hang out your Lanthorne and candle. Maiſter Hobſon heereupon hung out a Lanthorne and a candle vnlighted, as the Beadle againe commanded, whereupon hee was ſent againe to the Counter: but the next night, the Beadle being better aduiſed, cried, hang out your lanthorne and candle-light, hang out your lanthorne & candle-light, which maiſter Hobſon at laſt did, to his great commendations, which cry of lanthorne and candle-light is in right manner vſed to this day.

8 How Maister *Hobson* baited the Deuill with a Dogge.

Not farre from maister Hobsons house, there dwelled one of these cunning men, otherwise called fortune-tellers, such cuzning companions as at this day, (by their crafts) make simple women beleeue, how they can tell what husbands they shall haue, how many childzen, how many sweete hearts, and such like: if goods bee stole, who hath them, with promise to helpe them to their losses againe, with many other like deceitfull elusions: To this

this wiſe man (as ſome termes him) goes maiſter Hobſon, not to reape any benefit by his craftie cunning, but to make a Jeſt and tryall of his experience: ſo cauſing one of his ſeruants to lead a maſtie Dogge after him, ſtaying at the cunning-mans doore with the Dogge in his hand: vp goes maiſter Hobſon to the wiſe-man, requeſting his ſkill, for hée had loſt ten pound lately taken from him by théeues, but when and how hée knew not well.

The cunning man knowing maiſter Hobſon to bee one of his neighbours, and a man of a good reputation fell (as he made ſhow) to conturing and caſting of figures, and after a few words of incantation, as his common vſe was, hee tooke a very large faire looking glaſſe, and bad maiſter Hobſon looke in the ſame, but not to caſt his eyes backward in any caſe, the which he did, and therein ſaw the picture of a Hogge and large Tre

with

with two broad hornes on his head, the which was no otherwise, but (as hee had often deceitfully shewed to others) a counning fellow, like the cunning man him self, cloathed in an Ores hide, which fellow hee maintained as his seruant to blinde the peoples eyes withall, and to make them beléeue hee could shew them the Diuell at his pleasure in a glasse: this vision maister Hobson perceiuing, and getting at the knauery thereof, gaue a whistle for his Dogge, which then staide below at the doore in his mans keeping, which whistle being no sooner heard, but the Dogge ranne vp staires to his maister as hee had beene mad, and presently fastned vpon the poore fellow in the Ores hide, and so tore him as it was pittifull to see: the cunning man cryed for the passion of God take off your Dogge: no (quoth maister Hobson) let the Diuell and the Dogge fight, venture thou thy Deuill, and I will

venture

venture my Dogge: to conclude, the Dre hide was tozne quite from the fellowes back, and ſo their knaueries were diſcouered, and their cunning ſhifts laide open to the wozld.

9. How Maiſter *Hobſon* allowed his wife two men to waite on her to the market.

AS maiſter Hobſon increaſed in riches ſo increaſed his wife in pzide, in ſuch ſozt that ſhee would ſildome goe out of dozes without her man befoze her. Upon a time hauing buſineſſe to Cheape-ſide market, amongſt many other of her neighbours, the mozе to ſhewe her high and haughty ſtomack, deſired of her huſband that ſhee might haue

haue her man to attend her: who seeing her disposition, willingly consented there-vnto, and thereupon called two of his lustiest men, put them in Armour, with two browne Bills on their necks, placing one of them before her, the other after, and so proffered to send her forth to market, shée in a niceneſſe, tooke such displeasure hérrat, that for a moneth after she lay sicke in her bedde, and would eate nothing but Cawdles made of Muskadine.

10. How Maister Hobson made a Iest of his mans name.

One of maister Hobsons prentises by name, was called George Bacon, a neere kinsman to Sir

Sir Nicholas Bacon, Lord Keeper of England, a youth of much forwardnesse and good government: nére vnto Maister Hobson dwelled a Grocer, which had likewise to his seruant a youth called by the name of George Hogge, also of a god witte, and a pleasant disposition: these two prentises were great companions, and spent much time together, whereat Maister Hobson beeing much displeased, called the sayd George Hogge to him, saying, I maruell my boye (quoth hee) why thou keepest my man Bacon company, knowing him to bee a prentise but newlye bound, and thou thy selfe another mans seruant, to whome replyed this George Hogge wisely, saying: Your man Bacon sir is a neare kinsman of mine, and wee can by no meanes part friendship: How knaue (quoth maister Hobson) a kinsman of thine? Bones a God man, tell mée how it comes? marry thus answered the boye:

my

my name is Hogge, and his is Bacon, two names that cannot chuse but bee of a kindred: Nay, not so my Lad (quoth maister Hobson) a Hogge is no kinsman to Bacon till hee bee hangd, and when thou art hangd, thou shalt bee my man Bacons kinsman, till then thou art but a bare Hogge. Thus by this Jest did maister Hobson part their companies.

11. Of an Epitaph that maister *Hobson* made for a dead man.

There was a very riche Citizen (dwelling not farre from London Bridge) whome in his life time was never knowne to do any deed worthy of memory: who dying, left Maister Hobson his onely

onely executor, to diſpoſe of his goods, as alſo to laye vppon his graue a faire marble ſtone: and as vpon marble ſtones there be commonly ingrauen certaine verſes in the manner of an Epitaph of the mans conuerſation there vnder buried, ſo maiſter Hobſon conſidered, what Epitaph hee would ſet vpon his friends graue, knowing the few good deeds hee did in his life time, cauſed theſe two verſes following to bee ingrauen vpon the marble ſtone.

Epitaph.

He was begotten, borne, and cried,
He liued long time, fell ſicke; and (dyed.

12. How Maister *Hobson* prooued himselfe a Poet.

MAister Hobson hauing occasion to ride into the wilde of Kent, where in that age Scholliers were somwhat scarce, during the time of his tarriance there, there happened to bee buried one Iohn Medcaulfe a very sufficient Farmer, vppon whose graue was written these verses following, in faire Romaine letters.

I desire yee in the Lords behalfe,

To

To pray for the ſoule of poore Iohn Caulfe.

Maiſter Hobſon noting the ſimplicity of the verſes, writ vnderneath as followeth.

O thou death more ſubtle then a Foxe,
Thou mighſt a let this Caulfe liued to be an Oxe:
To haue eate Graſſe, Haye, and Corne,
And like his Sire to haue worne a Horne.

13. How Maiſter Hobſon ſerued an Inne-keepers wife.

COntinuing in the wilde of Kent, maiſter Hobſon being

be nighted in trauell: it was his chance to happen into a very poore Inne, where was no more beds in all the house, but two, the one for the good man and his wife, the other for the guests that came thether: and both these beds stood in one Chamber, for indeede there was no more lodging roomes in all the Inne: maister Hobson hauing supt, was lighted to bed by the Hoast him-selfe, who like an vnmannerly Chamberlaine set maister Hobson neuer a Chamber pot: the which loking for, round about the chamber, hee espyed a wooden bowle vnder the good-mans bed, and a strayning dishe of the same fashion hanging vppe against the wall: the straining dish then maister Hobson takes, and sets vnder the goodmans bed, and remooueth the chamber bowle from thence, and sets it vnder his owne: The good-man and his wife according to custome, came to bed with-out light, where they had not long

lane,

lone, but the good wife had occasion to make water, and there-vpon desired her husband to reach her the chamber-bowle, the which hee did as hee thought, but being deceiued by maister Hobson, he gaue her the strayning dish, wherein when she made water it ran quite thorow vpon her husband: goods my life (quoth the goodman) woman thou spillest ouer: No, husband, no (quoth she) it is not yet at my thumbe: which in my opinion was a marke and custome they had: Maister Hobson hereat could scarce sleepe for laughing, but lay and spent the whole night with merry imaginations.

14. How Maister *Hobson* found his factor in France with a French Curtizan.

MAister Hobson hauing in Fráce a factor which dealt for him in marchandise and lacking diuerse sortes of wares, to furnish his chapmen for Bristowe faire, sent to his aforesaid factor (being a merry conceited youth) for certaine matches of such commodities as were then most in request: he mistaking his maisters meaning, sent him all the matches bled for Gun-powder, that could bee bought in France, to the value of two thousand pounds worth.

with: Maiſter Hobſon receiuing them, and ſeeing him-ſelfe matcht with a commodity of matches, thought all was not wel in France, and that his man neglected his buſineſſe there.

To know the truth thereof, the next morning very early, not reuealing it to his wife; in a night gowne, a buttoned cap, and in a paire of ſlippers: tooke ſhipping at Billingſgate, and ſo paſſed ouer in to France, where after ſome inquiry made of his mans life and conuerſation, hee found him in a lewd houſe, reuelling with a moſt gallant French Curtizan, whom Maiſter Hobſon after a ſmile or two ſaluted in this manner: What now knaue, what a wenching knaue: at rack and manger knaue: bones of mee cannot a ſnatch and away ſerue your turne knaue: is this the French wares you deale withall knaue: his man ſeeing himſelfe ſo taken napping, for a time ſtood amazed, not knowing

what to say, but recouering his sences, hee gaue his maister this pleasant answere, though Sir this ware is a broken commodity, yet may wee deale with them, being dealers with all wares or rather haberdashers of small wares, which is seldome lik'd of French Gentlewomen: Maister Hobson at this pleasant answer could not choose but pardon him, and so came they both ouer into England, where now this rack and manger is growne to a prouerbe.

15. How Maiſter Hobſon got a Pattent for the ſale of his Matches.

THE commodity of matches which his factor ſent him from France, being ſlow of ſaile conſidering the little vſe for them, being a time of peace, like a witty Cittizen, Maiſter Hobſon hies himſelfe to court to the Quéene Elizabeth for then ſhe raigned, and having a pattent ready made for the ſale of the aforeſaid matches, where ſo ſoone as he came into the Quéenes preſence, hee kneeled downe, and deſired her greae to giue an aſſignement to his Pattent, declaring

what it was: and the great losse hee was like to sustaine by that commodity: the Quæne perceiuing for what intent hee came, and considering the great benefit that would come by such a grant, and meaning to giue it to some Gentleman nære vnto her, as a recompence for his seruice, sayde vnto Maister Hobson: My friend (sayd the Quæne,) bee content for thou shalt not haue thy Patent sealed, nor will I giue thee thy request: Maister Hobson hearing the Quæenes deniall, said, I most hartily thanke your maiesty, both I and all mine are bound to thank and pray for your Highnesse: and so making lowe obeysance, went his way: at these his wordes, the Quæne much marualled, and when hee had gone a little from her, shee caused him to bee sent for backe againe, whome when hee was returned: the Quæne asked, if hee did well vnderstand what answere her Grace did giue him,

yes

yes truely ſaide maiſter Hobſon, what ſaid I (quoth the Quæne?) marry your grace bad me be content for I ſhould not haue my deſire, nor my pattent ſealed, why did you then (quoth the Quæne) giue mee ſuch great thankes? becauſe (ſaid maiſter Hobſon) your grace gaue mee ſo ſome an anſwer without either longer ſute, or loſſe of time, the which would haue bene to my very much harme and great hinderance, for I haue at home a mighty charge of houſehould to which I am bound in duty to looke diligently, and to maintaine carefully. The Quæne marking well the wiſdome, and diſcreet anſwer of maiſter Hobſon, and now conceiuing a new fauour towards him, ſaid, now ſhall you giue mee twice thankes and haue your pattent ſealed, and your deſires perfourmed that you ſee for. So caſting her eyes vpon the Lord Chauncelour, commanded the ſame by him to bee done,

which

which was accomplished with all spæde, whereby in short time, hee had quicke saile of his commodity of matches to his hearts content, and his wealths great encrease.

16. Maister *Hobsons* Iest of ringing of Bells vpon the Queenes day.

VPon Saínte Hewes day being the seuentéenth of Nouember, vpon which daye the triumphe was holden for Quéene Elizabeths happy gouernment, as bonfires, ringing of bells, and such like. but in the Parish where Maister Hobson dwelled, he being Churchwarden, was

was no ringing at all, by reason the steple was amending, and the bells downe, and being asked by a seruant of the Quænes house why they ringed not? hee answered, because they had no bells in their steple, then quoth the Quænes man, may you very well sell away your steple, why so quoth maister Hobson, because quoth the other it standeth emptye and vacant, to whome maister Hobson replyed againe, wee may better sell away our Pulpet, for these twelue months was there neuer a sermon in the same, and it rather stands empty and vacant. After this the parson of the Church preached euery Sunday following.

Of

17. Of a Beggers answer to Maister *Hobson.*

A Poore beggar man, that was foule, black, and loathsome to behould, came on a time to maister Hobson as hee walked in his owne fields, and asked some-thing of him for almes: to whome maister Hobson said, I prethee good fellow gette from mee, for thou lookst as thou camst lately out of hell, the poore Beggar man perceiuing he would giue him nothing, answered forsooth. Sir, you say true, for I came lately out of Hell indeede, why didst not thou tarry there still quoth maister Hobson, nay Sirre quoth the begger, there is no roome

for

for such begger-men as I am, for all is kept for such Gentlemen Cittizens as you bee: this witty answer caused Maister Hobson to giue the poore man a teaster.

18. How long Maister *Hobsons* Daughter mourned for her husbands death.

MAister Hobson had a daughter which was a very faire and young woman, the which for her husband that laye a dying, made great sorrow and lamentation, and would not be comforted by any perswasions, wherefore her father came to her and said, daughter

ter leaue off your mourning, for if God take away your huſband: I will ſpeedily prouide you another of as great a wealth and credit as he is now of, and farre more yong and luſtie, but yet for all this would ſhee not leaue mourning, and grew greatly diſpleaſed that her father made any motion of another huſband, proteſting that ſhee would neuer marry more. But now marke the variable mindes of women, her huſband was no ſooner dead and buried, the charges of his buriall paide for, and ſhee with her friends ſet at ſupper to comfort her, betweene ſobbing and weeping, ſhee whiſpered her father in the eare, and ſaid; father where is the ſame man, that vée ſaide ſhould bee my huſband: thus may you ſee (quoth Maiſter Hobſon,) the nature of women kinde, and how long they mourne for their huſbands after they bee dead: theſe wordes made the yong

woman

woman neuer after to aſke her fa-
ther for a huſband.

19 How Maiſter *Hobſon* cauſed his man to ſet vp a ſigne.

Maiſter Hobſon hauing one of his Prentices new come out of his time and being made a free man of Lõ-don, deſired to ſet vp for him ſelfe, ſo taking a houſe not farre from Saint Lawrence lane, furniſhed it with ſtore of ware, & ſet the ſigne of the Maiden-head: hard by was a very rich man of the ſame trade, had the ſame ſigne, who reported

in

in euery place where he came, that the yong man had set vp the same signe that hee had, onely to gett away his customers, and dayly vexed the young man therewithall, who being grieued in minde, made it knowne to maister Hobson his late maister, who comming to the rich man said, I marvell sir (quoth maister Hobson) why you wrong my man so much as to say he seeketh to get away your customers, marry so he doth (quoth the other) for he hath set vp a signe called the maiden-head as mine is, that is not so (replied maister Hobson,) for this is the widdowes head, and no maidenhead, therefore you doe him great wrong: the riche man herevpon seeing himselfe requited with mockes, rested satisfied, and neuer after that enuied maister Hobsons man, but let him liue quietly.

Of

19. Of Maiſter Hobſons Ieſt of a Louſe and a Flea.

Vpon a time maiſter Hobſon going to my Lord Maiors to dinner amongſt the liuerye of his company, and being wayted on by one of his Prentiſes: the ſayd Prentiſe ſpied a Lowſe creeping vpon the ſide of his gowne and tooke it off: maiſter Hobſon eſpying him to doe ſome-thing in ſecret, aſked what it was: the fellow being aſhamed, was loath to tell him, but beeing importuned by his maiſter, ſaid it was a Louſe: oh (quoth Maiſter Hobſon) this is good luck: for it beweth mee to be a man, for this kind of vermaine chiefly breedeth on man-kinde, and there-vpon gaue fiue ſhillings to his man for his labour: another of his Prenti-

tises being a pickthank-knaue, and hauing heard that his fellow had fiue shillings giuen him for taking a Lowse from off his maister (hauing his gowne likewise on) and made as though he took a flea from the same, and conuayed it priuily away, but when maister Hobson constrained him to tell what it was, with much dissembling shamefastnesse he said it was a flea: Maister Hobson perceiuing his dissimulation said to him, what dosse thou make me a dogge? for fleas bee most commonly bred vppon dogs: and so the fiue shillings hee looked for hee had giuen fiueténe stripes: for quoth maister Hobson, there is great difference betwéene one that doth a thing with a good minde, and him that doth a thing by dissimulation.

11. How one of Maiſter *Hobſons* men quited him with a merry Ieſt.

MAiſter Hobſon had a ſeruant that he had long before made a freeman, and was ſtill at maiſter Hobſons commandment and did him much good ſeruice, wherefore vpon a time he came vnto his maiſter and ſaid, ſir, I haue done your ſeruice long time iuſt and truly, wherfore I pray you beſtow ſome thing vpon mee to begin the world with all, fellow, quoth maiſter Hobſon, thou ſaiſt true, and hereon haue I thought many times to doe a good turne, now will I tell thee what thou ſhalt doe, I muſt ſhortlye ride to Briſtowe faire, and if thou will beare my charges thether, I will giue thee ſuch a thing, as ſhall bee worth to thee a hundred pounds: I am content,

(quoth the fellow) so all the waye as hee road, his man boze his charges, and paide foz all things dulye, till they came to their last lodging, and there after supper hee came to his maister and said: Sir, I haue borne your charges as you commanded mee, now I pray you let mee know what the thing is that will bee woorth to mee a hundred pounds: did I promise thee such a thing (quoth his maister) you did quoth the fellow; shew it mee in writing (quoth his maister) I haue none (quoth the fellow) then thou art like to haue nothing (quoth his his maister,) and learne this of mee, when so euer thou makest a bargaine with any man, looke that thou take a writing foz thy security, and bee well aduised how thou giuest thy bond to any man, this thing hath benefited mee in my time a hundred pounds, and so may it likewise doe thee: Thus when the poore fellow saw there was no remedy, hee held himselfe content,

and

and all that night pondered in his minde how to growe quittance with his maiſter: ſo on the morrow when his maiſter had diſpatched his buſineſſe in the towne, and was fet forward back againe towards London, hee tarried a litle behinde to reckon with the hoſtiſſe where hee lay, and of her hee borrowed as much money on his maiſters cloake as came to all the charges that they ſpent by the way. Maiſter Hobſon had not ridden paſt two miles but that it began to raine, whereupon he called for his cloake of another ſeruant that rod by, who ſaid that it was behinde with his fellow, who had it with him: ſo they toke ſhelter under a tree, till hee ouer-toke them, when hee was come, maiſter Hobſon moſt angerly ſaid: thou knaue why comſt not thou away with my cloake: Sir and pleaſe you (quoth the poore fellow) I haue laide it to pawne for your charges all the way: why knaue

quoth maister Hobson, diddest not thou promise to beare my charges to Bristow: did I quoth the fellowes (quoth maister Hobson) that thou diddest, shew mee a writing then therefore (saide the fellow) where-vnto maister Hobson (seeing him-selfe so cunningly ouer-reached) answered but little.

22. Of Maister *Hobsons* riding to Sturbridge faire.

MAister Hobson on a time in company of one his neighbours road from London towardes Sturbrige faire so the first night of their iourney they lodged at Ware

Ware in an Inne where great ſtore of company was, and in the morning when euery man made him ready to ride, and ſome were on horſbacke ſetting forward, the Cittizen his neighbour found him ſitting at the Inne gate booted and ſpurd in a brown ſtudy, to whom he ſayd, for ſhame maiſter Hobſon why ſit you heare, why do you not make your ſelfe ready to horſeback, that wee may ſet forward with company? Maiſter Hobſon replyed in this manner, I tarrye (quoth hee) for a good cauſe: for what cauſe quoth his neighbour: marry quoth maiſter Hobſon here bee ſo many horſes, that I cannot tell which is mine owne, and I know well, when euery man is ridden and gone, the horſe that remaineth behinde, muſt needs bee mine.

23. How Maister *Hobson* found a Farmers purse.

THere was a certaine farmer that lost fortie pounds betwixt Cambridge and London, and being so great a summe, he made proclamation in all market townes thereabout, that who so euer had found forty and fiue pounds, should haue the fiue pounds for his labour for finding it, and therefore hee put in the fiue pound more then was lost, it was Maister Hobsons fortune to finde the same summe of fortye pounds, and brought the same to the Bailife of Ware, and required the fiue pounds for his paines as it was proclaimed: when the country farmer vnderstood this, and that hee must néedes pay fiue pound

pounds for the finding, he said that there was in the purse fiue and forty pounds, and so would hee haue his owne money and fiue pounds ouer: so long they strone, that the matter was brought before a Iustice of peace which was then one maister Fleetwood, who after was Recorder of London: but when maister Fleetwood vnderstood by the bayliff, that the proclamation was made for a purse of fiue and forty pound, he demanded where it was, here quoth the Bayliffe, and gaue it him, is it iust forty pound said maister Fleetwood, yes truly (quoth the Bayliffe:) heere maister Hobson, said maister Fleetwood, take you this mony for it is your owne, and if you chance to finde a purse of fiue and forty pound, bring it to this honest farmer: that is mine quoth the farmer, for I lost iust forty pound, you speake too late (quoth maister Fleetwood) thus the farmer lost the money, and maister Hobson

had

had it according to iustice.

24. How Maister Hobson was a Iudge betwixt two women.

THere dwelled not farre from Maister Hobson, two verye ancient women the yongest of them both, was aboue three-score yeares of age, and vppon a time sitting at the tauerne together, they grew at variance which of them should be the youngest, (as women indeed desire to bee accounted yonger then they be) in such manner that they laide a good supper, of the valew of twenty shillings, for the truth thereof,

and

and Maister Hobson they agreede vpon to bee their Iudge of the difference: so after Maister Hobson had knowledge thereof, the one came to him, and as a present gaue him a verye faire Pidgion-pye, worth some fiue shillings, desiring him to passe the verdit of her side: within a while after the other came, and gaue maister Hobson a very faire gray-hound, which kind of dogges hee much delighted in: praying him likewise to be fauourable on her side, wherefore he gaue iudgment that the woman that gaue him the gray-hound was the yonger, and so she wone the supper of twenty shillings, which she pertaining, came to him and said, Sir, I gaue you a Pidgion-py, and you promised the verdit should goe on my side. To whom maister Hobson said, of a truth good woman, there came a gray-hound into my house, and eate vp the Pidgion-pye, and so by that meanes I quite forgotte thé.

25. Of the pride of Maister *Hobsons* wife.

MAister Hobsons wife carrying some-thing a stately minde, and delighting in braue apparell, vpō a time walking abroad with other women her neighbours, they espied a paire of silke stockings vpon her legges, and desiring the like, neuer let their husbands to liue in quiet after, till they had silke stockins of the same fashion: so within a weeke or two following, their husbands came complayning to maister Hobson and saide, Sir, (quoth one of them) the sufferance of

of your wiues pride, hath ſpoiled all ours, for ſince ſhe hath worne like ſtockings, our wiues haue growne ſo importunate, that they muſt nedes haue the like, and you are the chiefeſt cauſe in ſuffering her to weare the ſame: Oh my good neighbours (quoth maiſter Hobſon) I haue great cauſe in doing ſo, and it brings mee much quietneſſe, as how (quoth one of them) marry thus (neighbours) in ſeeing I cannot pleaſe her aboue the knee, I muſt needs pleaſe her below the knee, and the onely thing to pleaſe a woman is to let her haue her will.

Of Maiſter *Hobſons* rewarding a Poet for a bookes dedication.

VPon a new yeares day maiſter Hobſon ſitting at dinner in a Poets company, or one as you may terme him a writer of hiſtories, there came a poore man and pre-

presented him a couple of Orringes, which hee kindly tooke as a new-yeares gift, and gaue the poore man for the same, an Angell of golde, and thereupon gaue it his wife to lay vp among other Iewels, considering that it had likewise cost him an angell, the which hee did, the Poet sitting by and marking the bounty of Maister Hobson for so smal a matter, he went home and deuised a booke containing forty sheetes of paper, which was halfe a yeere in writing, and came and gaue it to maister Hobson in dedication, and thought in his minde, that hee in recompencing the poore man so much for an oring would yeeld farr more recompence for his booke, being so long in studying. Maister Hobson tooke the Poets booke thankefully, and perceiuing he did it onely for his bounty shewed for the Oringe giuen him, willed his wife to fetch the said Oring, which he gaue to the Poet, beeing then almost rotten, saying, heere is a Iewell which

cost

caſt me a thouſād times the worth in gold, therefore I thinke thou art well ſatiſfied for thy bookes dedication: the Poet ſeing this went his way all aſhamed.

27 How Maiſter *Hobſon* gaue one of his ſeruants the halfe of a blind mans benefit.

Maiſter Hobſon being ſtill very good to poore & moſt bountifull to aged people, there came to him vſually twice or thrice a weeke a ſilly poore old blinde man to ſing vnder his window, for the which hee continually gaue him twelue pence

pence a time. Maiſter Hobſon hauing one of his ſeruants ſo churliſh and withall ſo couetous, that he would ſuffer the blind man to come no more vnleſſe hee ſharde halfe his benefit: the which the blinde ſinging man was forſt to giue, rather then to loſe all: after twice or thrice parting ſhares, maiſter Hobſon had thereof intelligence, who conſulting with the blind man, ſerued his ſeruant in this manner, ſtill hee looked for halfe whatſoeuer he got, ſo this at laſt was Maiſter Hobſons guift, who gaue commandement that the blind man ſhould haue for his ſinging three-ſcore Ierkes with a good whip and to be equally parted as the other gifts were, the which were preſently giuen: the blinde mans were but eaſie, but maiſter Hobſons mans were very ſound ones, ſo that euery Ierke drewe bloud, after this hee neuer ſought to deminiſh his maiſters bounty.

How

8. How Maiſter *Hobſon* found out the Pie-ſtealer.

IN Chriſtmas holy daies when Maiſter Hobſons wife had many pyes in the ouen, one of his ſeruants had ſtole one of them out: and at the Tauerne had merrily eaten it: it fortuned that ſame day, ſome of his friends dined with him, and one of the pyes were miſſing, the ſtealer whereof, at after dinner hee found out in this manner: hee called all his ſeruants in friendly ſort together into the hall, and cauſed each of them to drinke one to another both wine, ale, and beere, till they were all drunke, then cauſed hee a table to bee furniſhed with very good cheare, whereat hee likewiſe pleaſed them, beeing ſet all together, he ſaid, why ſit you not down fellowes, wee bee ſet already

quoth they: Nay quoth maister Hobson he that stole the pye is not set yet, yes that I doe, (quoth hee hee that stole it) by which meanes hee knew what was become of the pye, for the poore fellow beeing drunke could not keepe his owne secrets.

29. Of Maister *Hobson* and a Doctor of Phisick.

Vpon a time when maister Hobson laye sicke, and in very great paine, there came vnto him a Doctor of Physicke, that tolde him hee could not escape, but must needes dye of that sickenesse, Maister Hobson a while after; not by the Doctors helpe, but by the will of GOD, recouered, and was whole of his disease, yet was he very lowe, and bare brought, and as hee walked forth on a day, hee mette the sayd Doctor, which doubting whether it

I were the ſicke man or no, ſayd he not you Sir the man called maiſter Hobſon? yes truly (quoth he) are you aliue or dead, ſayd the Doctor, I am dead quoth Maiſter Hobſon: what doe you here then ſayd the Doctor? I am here quoth maiſter Hobſon, becauſe I haue experience in many earthly things and God hath ſent me to the world againe, with a commandement to take vp all Phiſitions that I can get and ſend them thether to him, which saying made maiſter Doctor as pale as aſhes for feare, maiſter Hobſon ſeeing this, ſaid vnto him: Feare not maiſter Doctor though I ſaid all Phiſitions, for you are none, and there is no man that hath witte will take you for me, therefore you are not in my charge: farewell.

30. How Maiſter *Hobſon* anſwered a Popiſh Fryer.

IN the raigne of Queene Mary, when this land was blinded with ſuperſtition, there was a Popiſh Frier that made an Oration in the Charter-houſe-yard, where many formes were placed full of people, to here the ſame Oration, amongſt which number ſatte maiſter Hobſon, which Fryer much extolling him that was then Pope of Rome, comparing him to Saint Peter, for in degree hee names him aboue all the holy Fathers in time paſt, as Doctors, Martyrs, Prophets, yea and aboue more then Prophets, Iohn Baptiſt, then in what high place ſayde the Fryer ſhall wee place this good man, what place I ſay is fit for him, or where ſhall be fite Maiſter Hobſon

hearing

hearing him ſpeake ſo prophanely
ſitting among the Audience,
ſtart vp and ſayd, if thou canſt
ake no other, then ſet him here
my place, for I am weary, and ſo
went his way.

How Maiſter Hobſon wone a wager in making a Knight to laugh.

THere was a knight dwelling in London, that for the death of his wife would not be comforted, nor of many dayes was ſeene once for to ſmile, ſo vppon a time the Chamberlaine to the ſame Knight, beeing in company with Maiſter Hobſon, laid a wager of forty ſhillings with him, that he ſhould not make the Knight laugh by any meanes that he could doe, where-vpon the match was made, and the mony ſtakt downe,

for the winning of the same, maister Hobson getts him an ill fauoured masty Bitche almost starued, and fils her belly with so much Butter-milke and Whay, that it seemed to burst, so comming into the presence of the mournefull Knight, hee held the bitch so fast on the mouth and nose, that through the stopping of her winde and her belly, beeing so ouer-charged with Butter-milke, that so strained her, that shee defiled all the Knights chamber: hereat the Chamberlaine grew so angry, that hee sayd hee would make old Hobson make it cleane, or put his nose into it: not so Chamberlaine (quoth maister Hobson) I will not take your office out of your hand, for it is your dutye to make cleane the chamber: hereat the Knight laughed very hartely, and so maister Hobson wone the wager of the Chamberlaine.

12. How Maiſter *Hobſon* anſwered Muſitions.

Vpon a time Maiſter Hobſon lying in Saint Albones, there came certaine Muſitions to playe at his chamber dore, to the intent that they filled his eares with their muſicke, hee ſhould fill their purſes with money: where-vpon hee bad one of the ſeruants of the Inne (that waited vpon him) to goe and tell them, that hee could not then endure to heare their muſicke, for he mourned for the death of his mother, ſo the muſitians diſapointed of their purpoſe, went ſadly all their way. The fellow heard him ſpeake of mourning, aſked him how long agoe it was ſince he buried his mother: truely (quoth maiſter Hobſon,) it is now very neare fortye yeares agoe, the fellow vnderſtanding very well his

subtilty, and how wittily hee sent away the Musitians: laughed very hartely.

33. Of Maister Hobsons teaching a Cow to speake.

Vpon a time, Maister Hobson being in company of a London Alderman, and beeing merrily disposed, tooke tenne pounds of the said Alderman, vppon this condition, that if he made not a cow to speake in ten yeares, and to read perfit english, he would giue for the same a hundred: the match being made, within few dayes after came one of his neigh-

neighbours and said hee was vnwise, and that hee vndertooke a thing vnpossible, and that euery body laughed him to scorne: to whome maister Hobson smilingly sayd, neighbour I am nothing afrayd of loosing my hundred, for in the space of ten yeares, eyther I, the Cow, or else Maister Alderman may dye.

Of

34. Of Maister Hobsons teaching his man to vse money.

MAister Hobson had a seruant so couetous, & withall so simple witted, ỳ all the money he could gette together hee hid in the ground, of the which maister Hobson hauing som intelligence fell a conturing for it in this manner, with a good wand he so belaboured my yong man, that he presently reuealed where it lay: the which summe of money maister Hobson tooke quite away, all saning a small sum, the which the poore fellow put to so good a vse, in buying and selling, that in short time he greatly increased it: when

when maiſter Hobſon vnderſtood what he had done, and what good vſe hee putte his money to, ſayd, Sirra, you can tell how to vſe money, and learne to make profit therof, I will reſtore to thee all againe and ſo he did, which made the fellow euer after a good huſband.

35. How maiſter Hobſon flouted a Ieſter.

Vpon a time maiſter Hobſō dined with a certayne company of merry fellowes, amongſt whome there was one that found much fault, with his merry ieſts, and as the company ſatte laughing and ſporting together, they aſked one another, which was the reuernts part of a mans body, one ſaid the eie, and anothe ſaid the noſe, another

another sayd the hand, but maister Hobson saydе the mouth was the most reuerents part, mary quoth the fellowe that was the find-fault, the part that we sitte on is the most reuerents part: and because the company maruayled why, he made this reason; mary (quoth the fellow) hée is most reuerent among the common people, this is first still set, which saying contented them al, & caused much laughter amongst them; and hée that spoke it, was not a little proud of his saying, in that hee had ouer-come (as he thought in wit) maister Hobson: this passed on, the same night following, they were bidden againe to supper to the same place, where maister Hobson remembred, the former ieſt of this scoffing fellow, there-vppon hee turned his backeside towards him, and saluted him with a great fart against his face, the fellow disdaining his rude salutation, said ill nurtur'd old knaue, where wast

thou

thou brought vppe: why diſdaineſt thou this (quoth maiſter Hobſon) if I hadde ſaluted thée with my mouth, thou wouldſt haue found fault, as an inferior part, and now I greet thée with that part of my body which by thy owne saying is the moſt reuerent, thou art diſpleaſed: thus got maiſter Hobſon againe the praiſe that hee had loſt before, and the poore fellow was laughed at of the whole company.

36.

Of maiſter Hobſons ſore eyes, and his anſwer to Phiſitions.

Vppon a time, when maiſter Hobſon had ſore eyes, there came another Phiſition to him, thinking to haue ſome recompence for his councell, warning him that hee ſhould in any caſe forbeare drinking, or elſe by the ſame loſe his eyes, to whome maiſter Hobſon ſayd, it is much more pleaſure for mee to loſe my eyes with drinking

with drinking then to keepe them for wormes to eate them out: another time a Phiſition came to maiſter Hobſon and ſaid, Sir you look well, and greeue at nothing, and haue a healthfull countenance, true (quoth Maiſter Hobſon) for I haue not to do with any Phiſitions, nor with Phiſicke: to whome he replyed. Sir ſaid he you haue no cauſe to blame the Phiſition, for his Phiſicke neuer did you hurt, thou ſaiſt true quoth maiſter Hobſon, for if I had prooued Phiſick, I had not beene now here aliue: another Phiſition, came to him on a time and ſaid ſir you be a very old man, (very true quoth maiſter Hobſon) for thou wert neuer my Phiſition, ſuch manner of checks and floutes would he ſtil giue to them that ſpoke to him of phiſicke: for in all his life he neuer tooke any.

37. How Maiſter Hobſon ſold charmes for the plague.

VPpon a time in London when a great plague was ſuſpected to come, the commõ people went dayly in great numbers to Phiſitians to preuent it, Maiſter Hobſon ſeeing their ſimplicity, and the doubt they had of Gods mercy, went about to hinder the Phiſitions, where vppon he not only gaue out ſpeaches amongſt his neighbours but in moſt partes of the Citty, ſaying, that he had little writings faſt ſealed vppe, of ſuch a vertue, that whoſoeuer boze it hanging about their necks fiftæne dayes ſhould not die of the plague, the fooliſh people truſting here-vppon euery one after his power, gaue him mony foz a ſcrowle oz wzighting

ting ſealed vp, with a thred of ſilke about it, charging them that they ſhould not open it, till it had hung about their necks for the ſpace of fifténe dayes, for if they take it away afore that time, it was of no vertue. Within a while after, the deſire of folkes was to know the contents of theſe writtings, ſo in opening of them, they found theſe foure lines written: the womens charme for the plague was this.

Woman, when thou ſtoupeſt low,
This leſſen ſhalt thou find,
Take heed of thy hinder part,
For breaking too much wind.

And to ſuch men that was ſo ſimple witted as to beléeue his merry perſwaſions, and therevppon would fondly beſtow their money, heegaue likewiſe this charme in writing.

Man, that drinketh late ouer night;
take couucell of a fool:

When

When thou riſeſt pray vnto God.
Thou maiſt haue a good ſtoole.

This was all the skill that maiſter Hobſon had, and the greateſt helpe he could teach them, but this merry medſon of his, made the ruder ſort of people more wiſer, and not after that time ſo vainely to caſt away their money.

Of Maiſter Hobſons ieſt of the ſigne of Saint Chriſtopher.

Maiſter Hobſon and another of his neighbours on a time walking to Southwarke faire, by chaunce dranke in a houſe at the ſigne of S. Chriſtopher, of the which ſigne the good man of the houſe gaue this commendation, S. Chriſtopher (quoth he) when he liued vpon the earth bore the greateſt burthen that e-

ner was, which was this, hee bore Christ ouer a riuer, nay there was one (quoth Maister Hobson,) that bore a greater burden, who was that (quoth the In-keeper) mary quoth Maister Hobson, the asse that bore both him and his mother: so was the Inkeeper called asse by craft. After this talking merrily together, the afore-said Inne-keeper beeing a little whitled with drinke, and his head so giddy that he fell into the fire, people standing by ranne sodainly and tooke him vppe, oh let him alone (quoth maister Hobson,) a man may do what hee will in his owne house, and lye where-soeuer hee listeth, the man hauing little hurt, with this slight grew immediately sober, and after fored maister Hobson and his neighbour soe mightely, that comming ouer London-bridge being very late, ran against one of their cheyne-posts, at which maister Hobson thinking it to be some man that had iustled

him

him, drew out his bodgion dagger and thruſt it vppe euen to the very hiltes into the hollow poſt, whereupon verily he had thought he had kild ſome man: ſo running away was taken by the watch, and ſo all the ieſt was diſcouered.

39. Of Maiſter Hobſons anſwere to a meſſenger of the Lord Maiors.

VPpon a time Maiſter Hobſon had areſted one of my Lord Maiors kinſmen for a certain debt owing him; and beeing in the Counter, my Lord Maior ſent one of his Officers for to intreat Maiſter Hobſon to be fauourable and kinde vnto his kinſman, telling

a long tale, and to little purpose, whome Maister Hobson answered in this manner: my friend (quoth he) what thou saidst in the beginning I doe not like off: and what was in the middle, I do not wel remember, and for thy conclusion, I vnderstand it not: and this was all the fauor Maister Hobson shewed to my Lord Mayors kinseman.

39. How Maister Hobson bid an Alderman to dinner.

His Mr. Hobson on a time had a seruant that was ful of wordes, and to much talkatiue being offended therewith gaue him still in charge, to

to ſay nothing, and to anſwere to that hee was demaunded and no more: ſo vpon a day Maiſter Hobſon made a great dinner, and ſent his ſaid ſeruant ſome two dayes before to inuite an Alderman of London ther-vnto: ſo vpon the day when dinner time came, all the gueſtes ſtaid for the Aldermans comming til two of the clocke, and at laſt Maiſter Hobſon, ſayd vnto his ſeruant: didſt thou bid maiſter Alderman to dinner? yes truly (ſayd he,) why commeth hee not then quoth maiſter Hobſon? mary quoth the fellow he ſaid hee could not: why toldſt thou mee not ſo quoth maiſter Hobſon? becauſe quoth the fellow you did not aſke me: Here-vpon (though long firſt) they went all to dinner, and being merry together drinking of Wine there came in a certaine Ruffian and ſtole one of the fayreſt ſiluer cuppes away: the which the fellow ſeing, ſayd neuer a word but let him goe, which when maiſter

Hobson missed, he demaunded of his seruant where it was, Sir (quoth the fellow,) a theefe came in and stole it away: why didst thou not stay him (quoth maister Hobson?) mary sir, (quoth he) because he asked no question of me, after this, maister Hobson noting the simplenesse of his seruant let te him haue his tongus at free liberty.

How

42. How Maiſter Hobſon grew out of loue with an Image.

IN the Raigne of Quéene Mary when great ſuperſtition was vſed in Englād, as crēping to the croſſe, worſhipping of Images and ſuch like, it was Maiſter Hobſons chaunce amongſt other people to bee in the Church, and knēling to an Image to pray, as it was then vſed, the ſame Image by ſome miſhap fell downe vpon maiſter Hobſon and broke his head, vppon which occaſion hee came not thether in halfe an yeare after but at length by the procurement of his neyghbours

bours hee came to the Church a-gaine, & because he saw his neighbours kneele before the same Image, he kneeled downe likewise, and sayd thus, wel I may cap and, kneele to thee, but thou shalt neuer haue my heart agayne so long as I liue: meaning for the broken head it had giuen him.

42. How Maister Hobson sayd hee was not at home.

ON a time, maister Hobson vpon som occasion came to maister Fleetwoods house to speake with him, being then new chosen the Recorder of London

London, and asked one of his men if hee were within, and he sayd hee was not at home, but maister Hobson perceiuing that his maister bad him say so, and that hee was within, not beeing willing (at that time) to bee spoken withall, for that time dissembling the matter hee went his way. Within a few daies after it was Maister Fleetwoods chance to come to maister Hobsons, and knocking at the doore, asked if hee were within: maister Hobson hearing, and knowing how he was denyed maister Fleetwoods speach before time, spake him-selfe alowd and said, hee was not at home: then said maister Fleetwood, what maister Hobson, thinke you that I know not your voyce, where-vnto maister Hobson answered and said: Now maister Fleetwood am I quit with you: for when I came to speake with you, I beleeued your man that sayd, you were not at home, and now you will not beleeue mine owne selfe, and this

was

was the merrye conference betwixt these two merry Gentlemen.

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44 How hee answered a Scriuener of the old religion.

Vpon a time, what with age, and misdieting himselfe, he toke so great a sickenesse, that hee grew in danger of death, where-vpon a Scriuener dwelling by was sent for, who sauouring some-thing of the Popish religion, councelled maister Hobson to take the Sacrament, which is (sayd the Scriuener) the very body and blood of Jesus Christ: to whome maister Hobson replyed, (being then vpon a Friday,) oh neighbour (quoth he)

I will eate no flesh on fasting dayes: the Scriuener hearing him-selfe flouted of the sicke man, moued to him no further questions, but fell to making of his Will, as followeth.

45. Of Maister Hobsons last Will and Testament.

IN the name of God Amen: I maister Hobson the merry Londoner, whole of minde but sicke of body, doe heere make my last Will and Testament, in manner and forme following. First I giue my soule to God, for that is his: my life to death, for he spares no man: & my body to the wormes, for thats their nourishment: all my lands, tenements & moueables, to my wife and

and children, reserving a few legasies, which I meane to bestowe on the world.

I giue to all Gentlemen, such a desire of pride, that shortly an outlandish brother, by them, shall bee held more in request then an English Taylor: and that London Cittizens shall growe wealthy, by the fall of ryotous Courtiers: also I giue and bequeath to London Marchants wiues, that they shall carry the mindes of Ladyes of the Court, euery moneth sicke of a new fashion. Also I bequeath that countrey Farmers wiues shall bee in the fashion of the horne buske, and silke girdles. Likewise to Chamber-maides and wayting Gentlewomen, I giue all my huge Poaking sticks, and French Perriwigs: but as for my small poaking sticks, but some-thing longer and slenderer, I bequeath to the fine Puritaines. Also I bequeath to all Wenches aboue thirteene yeares of age, golde Hat-bands,

charge-

changeable foze-parts, and ſilke girdles: and to young marryed men, I giue all my yellow Garters, points, and ſhoo-ſtrings, all of ſutable coulour: And to Kitchen Maides, that ſcowzes pottes, and ſcrapes Trenchers, all my walſht Gloues, and ſilke Laces: and to all country Dayzy wenches, that rides to London markets with Creame and Butter-milke, all my Paſkes, Wyper Buſkes, and ſilke colourd Scarfes: and to conclude, to all England I bequeath the pride and faſhions of all other Nations: and if any will further vnderſtand what other gifts old Hobſon the merry Londoner hath beſtowed, inquire at his graue at Saint Mildreds Church in the Poultry at London, where he now lieth buried.

Collected together by
R. Iohnſon.